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Report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

I. Introduction

1. By its resolution 2119 (2013), the Security Council extended the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 October 2014 and requested me to report on its implementation semi-annually and not later than 45 days before its expiration. The present report covers major developments since the issuance of my report of 7 March 2014 (S/2014/162) to 29 August 2014 and outlines activities undertaken by the Mission in line with its mandate under Security Council resolutions 1542 (2004), 1608 (2005), 1702 (2006), 1743 (2007), 1780 (2007), 1840 (2008), 1892 (2009), 1908 (2010), 1927 (2010), 1944 (2010), 2012 (2011), 2070 (2012) and 2119 (2013).

II. Political and security update

Political situation

2. The reporting period saw, at the outset, the signature of the El Rancho Accord, following an encouraging dialogue process mediated by the Episcopal Conference of Haiti, which convened the executive, the parliament and political parties. The remainder of the period, however, was marked by protracted negotiations between the executive and the legislature on the implementation of the Accord, notably concerning the establishment of an electoral council and the adoption of an amended electoral law, both required to organize the long-overdue local and legislative elections.

3. The Accord provided for a 10-day period within which the 2013 electoral law would be amended to allow for combined elections, by 26 October 2014, for two thirds of the Senate, the entire Chamber of Deputies, municipal administrations and local councils. It also called for the conversion of the former Transitory College of the Permanent Electoral Council into a new provisional electoral council, with an agreement that each branch of power could change one of its three nominees. A partial reshuffle of the Cabinet would allow for the appointment of representatives of political parties and other sectors of society.

4. On 21 March, the President, Michel Joseph Martelly, publicly lauded the dialogue process and stated his Administration's commitment to implementing the Accord. However, several actors from the opposition, including a group of six

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senators, rejected the Accord, arguing that their position had not been taken into consideration in the dialogue phase leading up to the Accord. They had argued for a complete reshuffle of the Electoral Council, with nine new members recognized for their independence.

5. In keeping with the provisions of the Accord, the Chamber of Deputies adopted the amendments to the electoral law on 1 April and the executive reshuffled the Cabinet the following day. Seven new ministers and 10 new secretaries of State were appointed. While the executive qualified the new appointments as a signal of its commitment to openness, given that the Cabinet included members from a wider array of political parties, the opposition mostly judged it as not sufficiently inclusive. On 7 April, the President swore in the members of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes, a constitutional requirement in line with another provision of the Accord.

6. Those steps notwithstanding, the issue of the composition of the Electoral Council continued to divide the executive, key opposition political parties and opposition parliamentarians. The last-mentioned consistently opposed any attempt by the Senate to vote on the amended electoral law by repeatedly preventing the required quorum from being reached. The impasse stemmed from the widely held perception that influence over the members of the Electoral Council is a key determinant of the electoral outcome.

7. On 6 May, as called for in the Accord, the President established the Electoral Council by means of a presidential order. He also replaced one of the three executive members. Two of the nine nominated members abstained from participating in the swearing-in ceremony on 9 May, citing the absence of confirmation by the parliament of its nominees. The installation on 12 May of seven members further fuelled political polarization regarding the elections and prompted a joint declaration by opposition political parties calling for a balanced and credible electoral council. Meanwhile, negotiations continued against a backdrop of intensifying calls by the international community and political parties, civil society and human rights organizations, the private sector and religious groups to reach a compromise solution on a more consensual electoral council.

8. On 9 June, an agreement was reached for the parliament and the judiciary each to replace one member of the Electoral Council while maintaining those members deemed independent by the opposition. The next day, the President issued a presidential order in which he called elections and set 26 October 2014 as the date for the first round. Those developments paved the way for the installation on 21 July of the remaining members of the Electoral Council, one of whom was immediately elected as the new presiding officer. Lingering discontent among opposition senators about the composition continued to motivate resistance to voting on the electoral law in the Senate, however, creating uncertainty over the fulfilment of the remaining prerequisites for the holding of elections.

9. On 11 August, the Electoral Council addressed a letter to the President informing him that it was technically impossible to organize the first round of elections by 26 October owing to the lack of an amended electoral law providing the required legal framework. In response, the executive undertook to initiate consultations with the leaders of both houses of the parliament, the Electoral Council and some political parties to reach consensus on the steps required to ensure the holding of the first round of the elections by the end of 2014.

10. Meanwhile, a controversy erupted when a court in Port-au-Prince issued a warrant on 13 August for the former President, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, to be brought before an investigative judge, following his failure to respond to a court summons the previous day. The summons was reportedly issued on 11 August, in connection with a continuing investigation into alleged financial improprieties committed during his term in office. His lawyers claimed that that he had never received the summons and wrote to the judge on 13 August requesting him to clarify the matter. Some members of the opposition denounced the warrant as a political manoeuvre.

Security assessment

11. The security environment remained relatively stable, including in the five departments vacated by the MINUSTAH military component (Grand-Anse, Nippes, South, South-East and North-West). Crime statistics collected by the national police and MINUSTAH demonstrated a solid downward trend in kidnappings, with a decrease of 74 per cent compared with the same period in 2013, resulting from the dismantling of a significant portion of kidnapping networks by the authorities over the past 24 months. The period saw, however, an increase of 24 per cent in the number of homicides (416 reported cases) compared with the corresponding period in 2013. This can be attributed, to a large extent, to gang disputes over territorial control in security-sensitive neighbourhoods of the greater metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, where some 76 per cent of the homicides were recorded. The number of reported rapes (154 cases) was slightly higher than during the same period in 2013 (147 cases).

12. The increase in homicides confirms that, while the overall security situation remains relatively stable, underlying fragilities remain, stemming from the weakness of State institutions, political uncertainty and the significant number of Haitians living in extreme poverty. It also reflects the continued challenges faced by the national police in deterring crime in sensitive neighbourhoods owing to insufficient personnel, equipment and vehicles.

13. Demonstrations triggered by socioeconomic grievances (194 reported events) increased by some 31 per cent compared with the same period in 2013. A total of 53 were reported as violent (characterized by the use of road barricades and the throwing of stones), representing an increase of 96 per cent. The number of politically motivated demonstrations remained relatively low (40 reported events), with most conducted peacefully. The large majority of the demonstrations were held in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince, with a spike seen in the Nippes Department (46 demonstrations).

14. The performance of the national police in terms of crowd control continued to improve during the reporting period. Specialized crowd control units were present at half of all the demonstrations, compared with 29 per cent during the same period in 2013. Nevertheless, in 33 per cent of the demonstrations, the national police continued to request operational support from MINUSTAH as a second line of response, compared with 27 per cent in 2013. This also reflects better coordination between the Mission's police component and the national police. At the same time, the presence of troops supporting the police in the aftermath of demonstrations through patrolling, as well as in the removal of obstacles and minor repairs, decreased from 32 to 8 per cent of all demonstrations.

III. Humanitarian, recovery and economic update

15. Haiti continued to make progress in relocating persons displaced by the earthquake of 2010. As at 30 June, the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area contained 172 sites inhabited by 103,565 internally displaced persons. Since 2010, the number of internally displaced Haitians has fallen by some 90 per cent. Between March and June, 71 sites were closed, 70 as part of relocation programmes supported by humanitarian partners and 1, affecting 145 households, as a result of a forced eviction by a landowner.

16. Critical needs and acute vulnerabilities remain. Camp conditions are poor, with uneven access to water and functional toilets and global acute malnutrition rates reaching 12.5 per cent. A decrease in forced evictions notwithstanding, no durable solutions have been identified for some 70,000 of the remaining displaced persons. During his visit to Haiti from 29 June to 5 July, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons urged the Government to move towards development-based solutions for the displaced.

17. Efforts by the Government, supported by international partners, have significantly reduced the toll of the cholera epidemic. According to the Ministry of Public Health and Population, the cholera epidemic had caused the deaths of 8,570 persons and infected 705,084 as at 20 July. In the first half of 2014, partners working to eliminate cholera conducted 165 responses to alerts in 47 communes, providing assistance to an estimated 112,000 people by supplying water, sanitation and hygiene packages. Between January and June, 45 fatalities and 6,406 suspected cases were registered, representing a decrease of 82 per cent in the number of cases compared with the same period in 2013.

18. As at 13 August, funding for the humanitarian action plan stood at only 39 per cent ($66 million of the $168 million required). The most underfunded sectors are nutrition and protection. The process to establish a transitional appeal has begun and will allow humanitarian problems to be tackled through development-based approaches.

19. The report for 2013 on the country's efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals was launched during the reporting period, outlining the progress achieved in recent years in areas such as school attendance rates for boys and girls, child mortality, access to water and extreme poverty reduction. Regarding the macroeconomic situation, an assessment mission of the International Monetary Fund visited Haiti in May 2014 and estimated that the annual economic growth rate would be 3 to 4 per cent for the fiscal year 2013/14.

IV. Activities of the Mission

Provision of support to State institutions

20. The Mission provided technical support to the Ministry of the Interior on the development of a new strategy on local tax reform. This included five departmental workshops organized by the Ministry of Economy and Finance and the Ministry of the Interior. Recommendations resulting from the consultations were included in the 2014/15 national budget, which has been approved by the Chamber of Deputies. MINUSTAH also continued to provide advice on integrated border management to

the Haitian Customs Administration and the interministerial committee against contraband and corruption. With MINUSTAH support, the Customs Surveillance Directorate completed the recruitment of 125 cadets, who are currently undertaking a six-month training programme.

21. In April, MINUSTAH and United Nations partners, under the leadership of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, supported the development of a joint training strategy to strengthen the national disaster management system. In July, the Mission and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) developed a framework to provide joint technical support to the Ministry of the Interior, through capacity-building for departmental delegations, gender mainstreaming on local governance issues and prevention of and response to natural disasters. The efforts are in line with the Mission's current consolidation plan, which foresees a progressive transfer of MINUSTAH activities in the above areas.

Provision of support to the political process

22. My Special Representative for Haiti actively engaged with national political stakeholders to promote dialogue and consensus before and after the signature of the El Rancho Accord. Working in close collaboration with representatives of the international community, the Mission conducted extensive shuttle diplomacy with the three branches of government, political parties and civil society to take the organization of the elections forward, including with regard to the appointment of the Electoral Council and the amendment of the electoral law. MINUSTAH also advocated the adoption of key legislation such as the national budget for 2013/14 and the anti-corruption law, which was promulgated by the President on 7 May.

Electoral support

23. The Government and the United Nations established a joint security, logistics and nationalization commission, composed of the Office of the Prime Minister, the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, the Provisional Electoral Council, the national police, MINUSTAH and UNDP, to facilitate the organization of the 2014 elections and the gradual handover of electoral operations to the authorities. In support of the voter registration campaign of the National Identification Office, MINUSTAH offered transportation for 64 mobile teams, helped to develop the campaign's communications plan, produced and broadcast a radio spot and printed 10,000 posters. It also provided operational assistance and equipment to the Electoral Council, including prefabricated offices, furniture and information technology equipment. The departmental joint electoral support centres were reactivated in June and, jointly with staff from the Electoral Council and the national police, all 1,492 voting centres were assessed in terms of availability, capacity and security.

24. From 25 April to 21 June, MINUSTAH held 114 pre-electoral forums at the municipal or district level to provide electoral civic education and reinforce local ownership of the electoral process.

Military

25. The military component of MINUSTAH conducted 14,981 patrols in the metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince and 13,604 patrols outside the capital. More than 80 per cent were carried out independently of the national police, owing to its

insufficient capacity and equipment. In addition, the military component conducted cordon and search operations in the most sensitive areas of the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area, including Cité Soleil, La Saline and Carrefour (West Department). The operations involved carrying out patrols and checkpoints to maintain security, collect information and deter gang activity. The military component also conducted power projection and reinforcement operations, employing rapid reaction forces in remote areas. The operations were intended to demonstrate the Mission's capacity to respond rapidly and reinforce national forces by land and air.

26. From March to July, the military component also engaged in civil-military coordination activities, such as providing medical assistance and distributing water and food for an estimated 270,015 beneficiaries. This represented a decrease of some 20 per cent in such activities compared with the same period in 2013.

Police

27. MINUSTAH police officers co-located in commissariats throughout the country continued to advise, mentor and support their Haitian counterparts through joint operations, patrols and checkpoints. The police component continued to strengthen the capacity of the national police in recruiting and vetting new cadets and training and mentoring middle and senior managers, while supporting the Inspectorate General to improve accountability, discipline and respect for rules and regulations. The Mission also provided training to the national police in weapons and ammunition management, small arms control standards and ammunition disposal. MINUSTAH extended its co-location strategy to the central intelligence and operations centre and to the newly created national police strategic planning unit in Port-au-Prince, in addition to continuing to support the community policing initiative. Such support has led to positive results in the dismantling of kidnapping networks.

28. While the capacity of the Haitian police to combat crime and conduct crowd control operations has visibly improved, its limited numbers and geographical reach remain of concern. It is expected that by the end of 2014 the police-to-population ratio will be approximately 1.15 officers per 1,000 inhabitants, well below the minimum recommended ratio of 2.22 officers. With two thirds of the national police stationed in the capital, the ratio in rural areas is closer to 0.5 police officers. To increase the ratio, the recruitment and training of new cadets continued, in accordance with the national police development plan. On 4 May, a class of 1,146 cadets (including 117 women) began a seven-month basic training programme, in line with the requirement of at least 1,000 additional officers per year. There is, however, a need to increase the police school capacity to accommodate the larger promotions required to reach the target of 15,000 officers by 2016.

29. The efforts of the Government and its international partners notwithstanding, the national police continued to depend on MINUSTAH for logistical and operational support in several areas, including daily operational patrols and deterrence activities in crime-prone areas. To tackle this challenge, MINUSTAH continued to carry out robust joint operations with the police in security-sensitive areas, including Cité Soleil, Simon Pelé and Martissant, in an effort to deter violence and disrupt gangs. From March to August, the Mission's formed police

units completed more than 22,500 patrols and 2,260 checkpoints, all conducted jointly with the national police in line with efforts to strengthen national capacity.

Protection of vulnerable groups

30. MINUSTAH uniformed personnel maintained their presence in camps for displaced persons and in fragile urban communities where women and children are vulnerable to crime and sexual and gender-based violence. MINUSTAH troops and individual police officers conducted 2,412 joint patrols in camps for internally displaced persons in Port-au-Prince. They were conducted independently of the Haitian police, which lacks the capacity to patrol camps frequently, unless responding to a report of crime. In addition, MINUSTAH, along with the International Organization for Migration, the police and a civil society organization, carried out three field missions to border areas, namely Malpasse (West Department), Belladère (Centre Department) and Anse-à-Pitres (South-East Department), to assess police capacity to monitor and respond to child rights violations, especially sexual violence and trafficking.

Community violence reduction

31. MINUSTAH continued to implement projects aimed at reducing community violence with a focus on providing socioeconomic alternatives to gang membership and associated criminal activities. The projects focused on providing employment opportunities to at-risk young people, protecting vulnerable groups and promoting dialogue and peaceful coexistence through forums and cultural activities.

32. The Mission supported 10 dialogue initiatives and targeted cultural forums in Port-au-Prince, in addition to completing 27 community violence reduction projects valued at $5.1 million in favour of 25,368 direct beneficiaries. Another 32 projects valued at $5.4 million were launched, including four labour-intensive projects focusing on public infrastructure, rehabilitation of canals and watershed management. Some 33,700 at-risk members of vulnerable communities will directly benefit from the projects, while 233,000 will benefit indirectly. The security-sensitive neighbourhood of Cité Soleil, where MINUSTAH carried out projects, patrols and security operations, registered a reduction of 46 per cent in the number of homicides compared with the same period in 2013.

Justice

33. MINUSTAH adopted a cost-effective and multiplier-effect strategy to catalyse judicial reform efforts through a model jurisdiction approach focused on the first-instance courts of Port-au-Prince, Cap-Haïtien and Les Cayes, serving more than one third of the country's population. The initiative has three principal objectives: ensuring the efficient functioning of the judicial system in the jurisdictions, reducing pretrial detention and improving access to justice. Those goals will be attained through the provision of technical assistance, focused on building the capacity of judges, prosecutors, court clerks and other stakeholders.

34. MINUSTAH, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Justice and Public Security, continued to support operations at five legal aid offices in the Port-au-Prince metropolitan area. From April to mid-July, the five offices dealt with more than 1,915 legal cases. MINUSTAH and UNDP also worked to support the Superior Council of the Judiciary and the Ministry to develop a set of 117 templates and

forms for judicial acts, expected to expedite the handling of judicial cases when formally adopted by the Minister of Justice. In addition, MINUSTAH supported the training at the School of Magistrates of 39 students, including 15 women, who graduated as magistrates in May 2014. The incoming class contains 60 students, half of whom are women.

Corrections

35. Overcrowding, prolonged pretrial detention, lack of qualified health personnel and insufficient budgetary allocations remain the key challenges facing the prison system. The rate of overcrowding as at 1 August stood at 172 per cent, with a prison population of more than 10,000 inmates compared with an official capacity of 5,958. Persons held in pretrial detention account for more than 70 per cent of the total prison population. On 10 August, some 300 inmates escaped from the prison in Croix des Bouquets (West Department), which hosts nearly 900 inmates. The incident shed light on the continuing vulnerabilities of the corrections system. It is nonetheless noteworthy that measures were swiftly put in place by the authorities, including with support from MINUSTAH, such as the establishment of a prison security plan, increased checkpoints and patrols, joint intelligence, heightened surveillance of the border and airport and redeployment of prison personnel. As at 19 August, some 40 fugitives had been recaptured, including a high-profile detainee originally arrested in May 2012 on suspicion of heading a kidnapping network.

36. MINUSTAH continued to advocate increased ownership and accountability by Haitian decision makers on prison-related issues, including reforms of the Prisons Administration Directorate as part of the police development plan, while also providing technical support to the Directorate. To deal with prison overcrowding, the Mission participated in the preventive detention follow-up committees that review the eligibility of inmates for release. MINUSTAH promoted the construction and rehabilitation of detention cells in the prisons in Fort-Liberté (North-East Department) and Jérémie (Grand-Anse Department) to separate women and minors from the male population. The Mission also supported the training of 65 corrections officers and 18 prison social workers and funded a mental health care programme for inmates in need.

Human rights

37. The Mission continued to focus on the investigation and reporting of human rights violations. Some progress was made in the trials of those accused of serious human rights violations. At the beginning of May, the new investigating judge appointed by the Court of Appeal began to hear victims in the case against the former President, Jean-Claude Duvalier. In the case of the murder in 2000 of Jean Dominique, a journalist, a suspect wanted since 2004 was arrested abroad and handed over to the Haitian authorities in June. The verdict in the retrial of 14 Haitian police officers accused of murder and complicity in the killing of 12 detainees at the prison in Les Cayes (South Department) in 2010 was overturned, however, raising concerns about impunity. Only one officer was convicted in absentia.

38. With technical assistance from MINUSTAH, and following consultation with civil society organizations, Haiti submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in March 2014. From 15 to 22 July, MINUSTAH

facilitated the visit of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti.

Gender

39. In line with MINUSTAH efforts to promote the political participation of women, the Mission, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, UNDP, the International Foundation for Electoral Systems and the National Democratic Institute jointly organized a workshop on the participation of women in elections that was attended by more than 100 representatives of political parties and women's organizations.

40. Sexual and gender-based violence remained underreported and infrequently prosecuted. MINUSTAH continued to train police officers to prevent and respond to such cases and also extended its programme to judges and prosecutors. Office space to receive complaints of such violence was built or renovated in four police stations with MINUSTAH support. In addition, MINUSTAH and the International Organization for Migration supported the construction of a dedicated centre for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence within the public hospital of the North Department, which will benefit up to 700 victims per year.

Child protection

41. Haiti made considerable strides in promoting child protection legislation during the reporting period. Legislation against trafficking in persons and on paternity, maternity and lineage were promulgated early in June. Haiti also ratified the first two optional protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child. Furthermore, the Government, in consultation with child protection partners, prepared legislation reforming social services responsible for child protection and a child protection code, to be submitted to the parliament by the end of the current legislature. MINUSTAH received 183 reports of child rights violations, slightly fewer than during the previous reporting period. The reports were shared weekly with the national police for follow-up.

HIV/AIDS

42. MINUSTAH and United Nations agencies supported the finalization of the revised national strategic plan for HIV/AIDS. The Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with civil society organizations and affected communities, supported a survey on stigma and discrimination against people living with HIV/AIDS within religious communities in three departments. MINUSTAH also supported the implementation of a sexual violence and HIV prevention project in five regions, which reached 246 participants (75 men and 171 women) from associations of people living with HIV/AIDS, women's and youth organizations and lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender groups. To advocate the adoption of pending legislation on HIV/AIDS awareness, the Mission facilitated a series of working sessions with the health commissions of the Senate and the Chamber of Deputies, in partnership with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS.

Quick-impact projects

43. During the reporting period, the Mission completed 56 quick-impact projects. Their focus included strengthening the rule of law and good governance through

training and construction or rehabilitation of peace tribunals, town halls and police stations; cholera mitigation initiatives, with 12 projects to facilitate access to potable water for some 67,000 beneficiaries and 1 to build a cholera treatment centre for an estimated 200,000 beneficiaries; the installation of public lighting in vulnerable neighbourhoods; public infrastructure improvement projects, such as a municipal support centre for women who are victims of violence; awareness-raising campaigns on civic education and public policies carried out under three livelihood projects; and training of some 2,000 civil society representatives. By 30 June, the Mission had allocated the entire budget of $5 million for quick-impact projects for 2013/14 and an additional 109 projects had been initiated.

Conduct and discipline

44. During the reporting period, specific training sessions on the prevention of sexual exploitation and abuse were provided to 1,589 personnel. The Mission also conducted its awareness-raising campaign through posters and electronic media. A total of 48 allegations of misconduct were recorded in MINUSTAH during the reporting period, of which 4 were connected to sexual exploitation and abuse, compared with 7 in the corresponding period in 2013.

Public information and outreach

45. As part of the MINUSTAH strategy to promote a peaceful environment for the elections, the Mission used radio, outreach and video to disseminate messages of non-violence, fair play and civic participation during the daily free screenings of the football World Cup and live transmissions on the Mission's radio station. With the Mission's support, a Haiti-based theatre group carried out a series of awareness-raising activities and embarked on a nationwide tour as part of the "Let us choose peace" campaign. On the occasion of World Press Freedom Day, 50 national media practitioners and 30 journalism students participated in the first of a series of workshops conducted by MINUSTAH and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the role of the press in a democratic society.

Mission support

46. In the light of the ongoing consolidation plan, MINUSTAH continued to offer capacity-building programmes for national staff. The Mission also began the 2014/15 financial period with the launch of Umoja Extension 1, for which it is the global pilot.

V. Humanitarian, recovery and development activities

Coordination between the Mission and the United Nations country team

47. The United Nations country team continued to develop and implement new joint programmes in line with the government-endorsed United Nations integrated strategic framework. Four joint programmes are under way and cover earthquake prevention, provision of support to housing reconstruction, rehabilitation of earthquake-affected neighbourhoods and voluntary relocation of displaced families, and dairy product transformation. As at 30 June, the disbursement rate of United Nations projects funded by the Haiti Reconstruction Fund was 89 per cent. During the reporting period, the Mission and the United Nations country team began to

revise the integrated strategic framework to better reflect the current national context and the reconfiguration of the United Nations system in Haiti.

48. The first national meeting of the aid effectiveness committee was held on 25 March with the goal of making the framework for coordination of external aid operational. The Government and its partners agreed on a road map for the completion of public financial management reform, continued efforts to strengthen the capacity of planning and thematic units and the simplification of the coordination framework.

49. The United Nations continued to provide support to the dialogue process between Haiti and the Dominican Republic by advising the Government of Haiti on issues put forward for discussion by the two countries, including border management, migration policy, trade and environmental protection. On 10 July, the high-level bilateral commission held its third meeting to date, which was followed by a joint meeting between the Presidents of Haiti and the Dominican Republic on 22 July, which was also attended by the President of the European Council. Both meetings were held in the Dominican Republic and reflect the countries' commitment to strengthening their bilateral relations.

United Nations efforts to eliminate the cholera epidemic

50. The High-level Committee for the Elimination of Cholera, which I established with the Prime Minister to coordinate the international community's response to the cholera epidemic, held its first meeting in Port-au-Prince on 27 May. At the meeting, attended by the Prime Minister and co-chaired by my Special Representative, the Committee endorsed the launch of a total sanitation campaign designed to reach 3 million people in rural areas over the coming five years with critical sanitation and hygiene interventions. A second meeting was held on 9 July, during which the Committee agreed to focus its work on the elaboration of a joint approach to providing socioeconomic assistance to people affected by cholera. On 14 July, during my two-day visit to Haiti, I launched the campaign in a rural area of Hinche (Centre Department), together with the Prime Minister. I also announced the imminent launch of the second phase of a vaccination campaign, which will target more than 200,000 people.

VI. Update on the drawdown and reconfiguration of the Mission

51. The military component continued to reduce its personnel, as mandated by the Security Council in its resolution 2119 (2013). MINUSTAH achieved its mandated troop strength of 5,021 soldiers on 30 June. This constitutes a reduction of approximately 15 per cent in the number of uniformed personnel. The Uruguayan maritime component was withdrawn in March, the Indonesian engineering company departed in April, the Nepalese and Jordanian battalions were repatriated in February and March, respectively, and the two remaining Uruguayan battalions were merged into a single, smaller unit. As at 1 July, the military component consisted of 21 infantry companies and two composite engineering companies, with no maritime capability remaining.

52. The drawdown of the Mission also led to the consolidation of logistical support into four regional hubs (Port-au-Prince, Gonaïves, Cap-Haïtien and Les Cayes). As at 1 July, there were five liaison offices (in Jérémie, Miragoâne, Port-de-Paix, Fort-Liberté and Hinche) reporting to five regional offices. The liaison offices perform a limited range of capacity-building, monitoring and mediation functions and have reduced staffing. They will be closed by 1 July 2015, reducing the Mission's footprint in line with its consolidation path and generating significant cost savings.

53. Given the Mission's consolidation process and in accordance with Security Council resolution 2119 (2013), in my previous report to the Council I outlined five possible configurations for a post-2016 presence in Haiti. In the subsequent debate on MINUSTAH in March, some Council members requested me to make recommendations on the optimal transition to a new configuration and the timing thereof. To that end, I deployed a strategic assessment mission to Haiti in June, under the overall guidance of the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, to hold extensive consultations with key national and international stakeholders, the senior leadership of MINUSTAH and the United Nations country team.

54. The findings were that continuity of United Nations support to Haitian institutions until the next electoral cycle and the installation of a new administration is desirable, in terms of the Mission's good offices and its support to stabilization, human rights and the rule of law, if the gains made to date are to be preserved and given the importance of a peaceful political transition in 2015. Any liquidation of MINUSTAH at the current stage would be premature and constrain the ability to plan for and address any instability associated with the lead-up to the presidential elections, at a time when the security situation remains fragile, the target strength of the national police is yet to be achieved and the force continues to develop its capacity to maintain country-wide stability.

55. As noted, at the end of 2014, the police-to-population ratio will still be far below the global average. In addition to the limited geographical reach of the police, its inadequate human and material resources and still-weak management systems are of concern. This was demonstrated by the fact that, in the past six months, the police still required support from the MINUSTAH police and military components to control more than one third of all demonstrations and to combat crime in sensitive areas. While the progress made is undeniable, the police cannot yet ensure country-wide security without support, in particular if confronted with additional challenges such as those that electoral periods may bring. It should be noted that, since the elections in 2011, the number of United Nations uniformed personnel has fallen by 42 per cent, against an increase of 18.7 per cent in the strength of the national police. Even at current levels of United Nations uniformed personnel, the next elections would see significantly decreased capacity to conduct several election-related tasks.

56. While the withdrawal of the Mission at this stage could contribute to creating a security vacuum and affect service delivery during emergencies, a conditions-based deepening of the current consolidation process is realistic, given the increased professionalization of the police and the progressive stabilization of the security environment. This would entail further consolidating the current military component to assist the Government only when a situation or threat exceeds the capacity of the

national authorities, with the support of the Mission's police component, to restore order. This would be achieved by maintaining a force based on two battalions comprising 2,370 troops, with enablers, deployed in the North and West Departments, to support the police when necessary. The reduction would come into effect by June 2015, depending on the security situation. The national police would then be able to count on the military component's support until the presidential elections in 2015 and the installation of a new government. The force could then be decreased further, possibly to one battalion, depending on the prevailing security situation at the time.

57. Given the focus on the national police of the Mission's stabilization and institutional strengthening efforts, the police component should remain at near-to-current levels, with an authorized strength of up to 2,601 officers. So as not to promote dependency, however, the Mission would not deploy formed police units to areas where none are currently present, unless the security situation so warrants. The presence of units in each department can be attained by relocating existing capacity, without increasing United Nations police strength or numbers.

58. Such a deepened consolidation would also entail a reduced physical and staffing footprint of the Mission, beyond that of troops, through a gradual disengagement from areas requiring longer-term development strategies than the lifespan of a peacekeeping mission permits. Possible areas of prudent but progressive disengagement include institution-building unrelated to the rule of law, decentralization, disaster preparedness and response and, eventually, electoral technical assistance.

59. A comprehensive transition plan between MINUSTAH, United Nations partners and the Government is required to ensure complementarity of efforts. In this context, the integrated strategic framework serves as a platform for greater alignment between the United Nations country team and the substantive sections of the Mission. A strategic planning process is under way, bringing together MINUSTAH and United Nations country team members to identify specific areas of collaboration or where engagement by the wider United Nations system and other partners could be increased. In this context, it will be crucial to ensure sustained financial and political support in key peacebuilding areas.

VII. Financial aspects

60. By its resolution 68/289, the General Assembly appropriated the amount of $500,080,500 for the maintenance of MINUSTAH for the period from 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2015. Should the Security Council decide to extend the mandate of the Mission beyond 15 October 2014, the cost of maintaining the Mission would be limited to the amounts approved by the Assembly. As at 5 August, unpaid assessed contributions to the Special Account for MINUSTAH amounted to $141.5 million. The total outstanding assessed contributions for all peacekeeping operations as at that date amounted to $4,093 million. As at 5 August, amounts owed to troop and formed police contributors to MINUSTAH totalled $15.2 million. Reimbursement of troop and contingent-owned equipment costs have been made for the period up to 30 April, in accordance with the quarterly payment schedule.

VIII. Observations

61. On 14 and 15 July, I undertook my fifth visit to Haiti as Secretary-General. I met a wide array of Haitians, including the President, the Prime Minister, parliamentarians, judges, police officers and representatives of civil society, and travelled to the countryside. The visit left me with a strong sense that significant progress has been made in Haiti over the past 10 years, including with United Nations support, and in overcoming one of history's most devastating earthquakes. The security situation has improved, key institutions continue to be strengthened, more displaced people have been able to leave the camps established for earthquake victims and progress has been made in quelling the cholera epidemic. Nevertheless, serious challenges remain that render the progress made fragile and liable to setbacks.

62. I am especially concerned that the path to a peaceful political transition could suffer a regression. The holding of inclusive elections in 2014 is essential for the continuity of the parliament in 2015, for the consolidation of democracy and the rule of law and to promote socioeconomic development, which is necessary to improve the living conditions of the population and achieve enduring stability. In my previous report, I encouraged all Haitian political stakeholders to nurture a political dialogue that would lead to the holding of long-overdue elections in 2014, a message that I also reiterated in meetings with Haitian officials and political stakeholders during my visit.

63. The inter-Haitian dialogue process and the agreements reached on the composition of the Electoral Council are positive developments and demonstrate a willingness to tackle persistent differences among political stakeholders. Disappointingly, with only four months remaining until the end of 2014, the final steps necessary to hold elections in 2014 are yet to be taken, with the amendments to the electoral law still to be adopted by the Senate. It is incumbent upon all Haitian stakeholders, at all levels, to take the measures necessary to advance towards the organization of elections. I call, once more, upon Haitian leaders across the political spectrum to rise above their differences to ensure the holding of transparent and inclusive elections in 2014, in the higher interest of their country.

64. MINUSTAH, with UNDP, provides technical assistance to the Electoral Council and stands ready, as before, to support security and logistical operations for the polls. This notwithstanding, given the Mission's consolidation, Haitian institutions should assume full ownership for the organization and conduct of the elections. I welcome the Government's contribution to the electoral budget and its discussions with MINUSTAH on the transfer of responsibility for electoral logistics to the Haitian authorities in the next polls in departments selected on the basis of the size of the voter population and local security situation, as feasible.

65. I am encouraged by the fact that violence has, overall, diminished. Today's security situation is characterized by threats to law and order, linked primarily to crime, gang violence and mobilized or spontaneous civil unrest, triggered by political or economic grievances. There has also been a notable increase in the capacity and professionalism of the national police, thanks to the Government's commitment to developing and strengthening this institution. I am hopeful that the goal of a 15,000-strong police force can be achieved by 2016, as foreseen in the national police development plan. Nevertheless, the sustained financial support and

commitment of the Government and Member States remain required to ensure the realization of a sustainable, fully professional, reliable and accountable police force and prison reform.

66. I urge the Government to continue to strengthen, with international support, the country's rule of law institutions, another key stabilization benchmark for Haiti. Developments such as the functioning of the Ombudsman's Office, the promulgation of anti-corruption legislation and advances in judicial investigations into serious past crimes are commendable. Nevertheless, justice, human rights and corrections institutions remain fragile and susceptible to setbacks. While it is positive that key oversight mechanisms have been established, they remain weak and continue to require budgetary, technical and logistical support.

67. During my visit to Haiti, the Prime Minister and I launched a total sanitation campaign, which will be key in stemming the spread of cholera. The United Nations is working with the Government through a new joint high-level committee to support the implementation of the National Plan for the Elimination of Cholera. Today, Haiti is on a trajectory for success in efforts to combat the disease, with the number of cases at its lowest since the outbreak. The elimination of this epidemic has been achieved in other difficult environments around the world. I call upon donors to provide the funding needed to make this a reality in Haiti too.

68. Haiti is at an important juncture in the consolidation of stability and democracy. The engagement of its political leaders and stakeholders is vital to securing the gains made in recent years, to setting Haiti firmly on a path towards lasting stability and economic development and to ensuring that Haitians assume greater responsibility in steering their country in this direction. The United Nations stands ready to continue being a partner of Haiti in this process, in a support role.

69. The downsizing of MINUSTAH is now in its third year. Significant gains have been made and the Mission's consolidation should reflect the reality on the ground. At the same time, an adequate presence to support Haitian institutions in addressing security risks continues to be needed, in particular in the context of the next electoral cycle and the continuing development of the national police. The heightened volatility posed by elections, the importance of ensuring a peaceful political transition and the still-weak capacity of the national police to ensure country-wide stability create a demonstrable need to retain a rapid reaction force, in addition to a police component, until the presidential elections in 2015 and the installation of a new government.

70. I recommend that the Security Council extend the mandate of the Mission for an additional year, until 15 October 2015. The mandate should reflect the improved — if still fragile — stability of the country and a conditions-based deepening of the consolidation process, whereby the Mission's engagement will progressively diminish and its responsibilities will be transferred to the national authorities, with the support of international and bilateral partners.

71. Specifically, I recommend a two-step drawdown of MINUSTAH based on a review of overall stability, the security situation and the capacity of the national police. As a first step, I propose a military drawdown to 2,370 troops by June 2015. This residual element would include the force headquarters with its support elements, two mechanized battalions, an engineering company, a level II hospital and a revised air fleet to ensure adequate airlift capacity. As a second step, the force

could then be further decreased, possibly to a battalion with enablers, following the presidential elections in 2015 and the installation of a new government, depending on the situation at the time. I intend to keep the Security Council informed through my subsequent reports on MINUSTAH.

72. With this reduced capacity, the military component would assist Haitian institutions only when a situation exceeds the capacity of the national police to restore order, with support from the MINUSTAH police component. The military component would also have less capacity to meet security and deterrence requirements or provide logistical support during elections and natural disasters. Concomitantly, MINUSTAH support to the national police would increasingly focus on qualitative improvements, with measurable monitoring and evaluation tools adopted to ensure that capacity-building efforts are sustainable.

73. I emphasize that, as MINUSTAH engages with all partners on transition planning, increased engagement by the Government, the wider United Nations system and others in tasks currently performed by the Mission is contingent upon the availability of sufficient and sustained resources.

74. In conclusion, I should like to express my sincere gratitude to my Special Representative, Sandra Honoré, for her service in support of Haiti at a time when the Mission is being reconfigured. I should also like to thank the women and men of MINUSTAH, troop- and police-contributing countries and the United Nations country team and their partners for their continued dedication and commitment to stability and development in Haiti.

Annex I

Progress in the consolidation of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti

1. In my report to the Security Council of 8 March 2013 (S/2013/139), I outlined the conditions-based consolidation plan of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, which identifies four stabilization benchmarks that constitute the framework for the Mission's consolidation. I provide herein an update on progress made during the reporting period.

Police development

2. As at May 2014, the strength of the national police stood at 10,963 serving officers (including 899 women or 8.2 per cent), supported by some 1,800 administrative personnel. Of the total police force, 6,304 officers (57.5 per cent) were assigned to general police duties nationwide and 4,659 (42.5 per cent) to specialized units.

3. Approximately one third of national police officers were deployed outside the greater metropolitan area of Port-au-Prince. The twenty-fourth promotion, which saw the graduation of 1,058 officers in December 2013, led to the deployment of 525 officers regionally (including 350 to the West Department) and 533 to specialized units.

4. Upon the graduation of the cadets in the twenty-fifth promotion, who began the seven-month training in May, the national police will have some 12,000 officers.

5. Beyond basic police training, the national police school offered in-service training for 518 national police officers and inspectors across all departments, specialized training for 111 emergency response officers and 396 public order officers and training-of-trainers sessions on intelligence, public order, emergency response and community policing.

6. The advanced training for senior officers, resulting in the graduation on 23 July of the second promotion of 36 commissioners (including 2 women), comprised courses on logistics and asset management. During the reporting period, 116 new vehicles and motorcycles were received.

7. For the fiscal year 2014/15, the proposed national police budget is $203.41 million, an increase of 32 per cent compared with 2013/14. The draft budget was submitted to the parliament on 30 June.

Electoral capacity-building

8. Constitutional deadlines were not respected, in view of the continued delays in the holding of local and legislative elections.

9. Although a permanent electoral council was not established, a provisional electoral council was formed on 6 May 2014, publishing the electoral calendar on 9 June. Before the installation of all of its members on 21 July, the body launched some electoral operations, subject to review by the newly installed council.

10. The Government-United Nations security, logistics and nationalization commission met 10 times to discuss an integrated security plan, training on electoral

matters for judges, prosecutors and electoral security agents and the progressive handover of electoral responsibilities to national institutions.

11. The Government fulfilled its pledge to fund one third of the provisional electoral budget and has to date disbursed some $13.5 million to the Multi-Donor Elections Trust Fund managed by the United Nations Development Programme.

12. On 27 March, the Mission completed a series of 65 countrywide focus groups on the 2013 electoral law to reinforce national ownership of the electoral process.

Rule of law and human rights

13. In June 2014, the Superior Council of the Judiciary adopted its internal rules of procedure.

14. The capacity of the Superior Court of Auditors and Administrative Disputes to handle an increased caseload remained insufficient, notwithstanding the swearing in of the Court's 10 members by the President of Haiti in April, after seven months of delay.

15. The Inspectorate General of the national police published its investigation report on various misconduct and human rights violations by police officers. A total of 24 officers were dismissed.

16. The joint vetting process for the national police is progressing, with 6,197 police officers and civilian staff having been certified. Vetting continued for the remaining national police personnel, with 2,886 cases under review and 4,065 yet to be reviewed.

17. The Mission encouraged the unified drafting of the revised criminal code and a single legal text is expected to be submitted to the parliament before the end of 2014.

18. Following the promulgation of anti-corruption legislation in May, the national Anti-Corruption Unit strengthened its ability to investigate cases.

Key governance issues

19. My Special Representative conducted her good offices role to promote dialogue among key national stakeholders focused on the holding of the elections and the continued functioning of democratic institutions.

20. From 25 April to 21 June, in its efforts to promote dialogue and civic participation, the Mission held 114 pre-electoral forums at the municipal or district level throughout the country. Some 6,915 people, including 1,661 women, attended.

21. Participants in the inter-Haitian dialogue process reached consensus on the need for constitutional amendments, but no reform process was launched.

Annex II

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti: countries providing military staff and contingents (as at 10 August 2014)

	Staff officers		*Troops*		
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*	*Total*
Argentina		10	39	517	566
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)		3	15	191	209
Brazil		18	16	1 327[a]	1 361[b]
Canada	2	3		2	7
Chile		5	12	394	411
El Salvador		1		34	35
Ecuador		1	1	55	57
Guatemala		5	11	122	138
Honduras				38[c]	38
Indonesia		2			2
Jordan		9			9
Nepal		10			10
Paraguay		3	4	109	116
Peru		6	18	349	373
Philippines	1	1	11	145	158
Republic of Korea	1	1			2
Sri Lanka		11		850	861
United States of America		9			9
Uruguay		9	31	571	611
Total	**4**	**107**	**158**	**4 704**	**4 973**

[a] Including one Bolivian attached to the Brazilian contingent.
[b] The Force Commander is employed on a United Nations contract and hence is not reflected in the troop strength.
[c] Attached to the Chilean battalion.

Annex III

United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti: composition and strength of the police (as at 31 July 2014)

	Number of United Nations police		*Number of formed police units*	
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*
Argentina	1	18	–	–
Bangladesh	–	3	84	196
Benin	1	44	–	–
Brazil	–	15	–	–
Burkina Faso	12	39	–	–
Burundi	8	33	–	–
Cameroon	2	21	–	–
Canada	15	69	–	–
Chad	–	5	–	–
Chile	–	3	–	–
Colombia	1	25	–	–
Côte d'Ivoire	10	122	–	–
Croatia	–	3	–	–
Egypt	–	2	–	–
France	3	20	–	–
Grenada	–	2	–	–
Guinea	–	16	–	–
India	–	9	1	433
Jamaica	–	2	–	–
Jordan	–	19	–	316
Kyrgyzstan	–	1	–	–
Lithuania	–	1	–	–
Madagascar	1	1	–	–
Mali	2	43	–	–
Nepal	–	2	9	130
Niger	8	38	–	–
Nigeria	3	2	–	–
Norway	4	1	–	–
Pakistan	–	–	1	139
Paraguay	–	1	–	–
Philippines	3	13	–	–
Portugal	–	1	–	–
Romania	5	18	–	–
Russian Federation	1	9	–	–
Rwanda	–	5	17	123

	Number of United Nations police		*Number of formed police units*	
Country	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*	*Men*
Senegal	–	6	11	129
Serbia	–	4	–	–
Spain	–	8	–	–
Sri Lanka	4	9	–	–
Thailand	3	4	–	–
Tunisia	1	11	–	–
Turkey	–	10	–	
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	–	1	–	–
United States of America	7	63	–	–
Uruguay	–	3	–	–
Vanuatu	–	2	–	–
Yemen	–	34	–	–
	95	751	123	1 466
Subtotal	**846**		**1 589**	
Total	**2 435**			

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